185 433 Compared with 1940, the capacity of Byelorussian electric power stations in 1950 is to increase by 220 per cent.; peat production is to rise 127 per cent. above the 1940 output; the output of bricks and lime is to increase fourfold; and the production of tile is slated to be about nine times over 1940.

Among the twelve oblasts in the Republic, Minsk oblast is scheduled for the greatest industrial expansion. In the construction programme are new factories for the output of cloth, penicillin, Deft-ware, porcelain, peat briquettes, boilers, radiators, instruments, bicycles, motor trucks, and tractors. The 1950 output for the last three factories is to be 100,000 bicycles, 1,000 7-ton trucks and 5,000 tractors. In the city and environs of Minsk alone capital investments are scheduled at the rate of nearly one million roubles a day during the course of the five years.

Another area in which large developments are projected is Gomel oblast, which in 1950 is to produce 787,000 tons of peat, 90 million bricks and tiles, and five million square metres of window glass. (In 1928 the total Byelorussian output of window glass was estimated at 1,170,000 square metres.)

Forestry

● 137 According to the census of January 1, 1935, the forest area of the B.S.S.R. was 3,817,000 hectares, 22.9 per cent. of the area of the Republic, and 0.6 per cent. of the total forest area of the Soviet Union. Another 2,538,000 hectares were added to the B.S.S.R.'s forest area in 1939, when West Byelorussia was rejoined to the Soviet Union.

Timber

313 The production of commercial timber, largely pine, fir and oak, has been centred in the areas of Bobruisk, Mozyr, Borisov, and Polotsk. Timber is considered one of the most valuable of Byelorussia's natural resources, and has figured largely in her relatively insignificant export trade. In 1926-27, for example, an income of 20 million roubles was realized from export of timber, at a time when the Republic's budget totalled 80 million roubles, and the gross output of industry was valued at 133 million roubles. In 1924-25, the only year for which details on the export of timber are available, the timber shipped from the B.S.S.R. amounted to 587,000 cubic metres of firewood and 749,000 cubic metres of other timber. About 60 per cent. of this was sent to the Ukraine (within the U.S.S.R.) and the remainder, plywood, oak, pine, and other products, was shipped abroad via the Baltic States.

The advanced development of the timber industry in the B.S.S.R. is revealed by the number of sawing frames which the Republic had in prewar years. As at April 1, 1939, (before the incorporation of Western Byelorussia) the B.S.S.R. possessed 256 of the Soviet Union's 6,500 frames.